

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

✓ EXTENSION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.

June 11, 1947

For your information

✓ TO STATE FARM LABOR SUPERVISORS OF Fla., Ga., S.C., N.C., Va., Md., Del., Pa.,
N.J., N.Y., Conn., Tenn., and Ohio

Subject: Atlantic Coast Migratory Movement

FLORIDA EXODUS IS ON

C. W. E. Pittman, who is on a field trip through the southeastern States, reports that practically all spring harvest work is completed in Florida. Migrants are leaving for points north in large numbers. Since the potato harvest will be over in South Carolina about June 15 or 20, and since North Carolina has enough workers to complete the potato harvest there, it is obvious that increasing numbers of crews may be arriving on the Eastern Shore this week. Many of these workers will not have work agreements. In order to avoid piling up surplus labor in any area, placement officers, particularly in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland should file placement requests now with placement and information station officials in Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. Even if these requests are for a considerably later date, they will help give some direction to what might otherwise become an aimless movement of crews seeking jobs without previous arrangement.

To facilitate the orderly movement of workers out of South Carolina, O. W. Nealy is now located in the office of County Agent, C. W. Carraway, Charleston, S. C., telephone Charleston 7173. Merle Stout is still at the Belle Glade, Fla. farm labor office.

MARYLAND has enough migrant workers until about June 15 or 20. By that time, Bill Hillman indicates he can place 300. Preference will be for family groups or small crews. There are now 1,088 migrants accounted for in the State. Of these, 545 are living in public housing. As of June 6 all of these migrants are working. Day labor has been provided for those not needed in peas or strawberries. Early beans not hit by frost are being harvested. Potato harvest will begin about July 4 and green wrap tomatoes about July 15. Small crews desiring work about June 15 or 20 should contact W. L. Hillman, Farm Labor Camp, Box 337, Pocomoke City, Md., telephone 410.

NORTH CAROLINA reports the orderly movement of crews into the harvest areas is nearing completion. As a result of previously arranged work agreements between crew leaders and growers, which made it possible to guarantee housing facilities, an army of workers has arrived in North Carolina within the last two weeks. As of June 9, additional capacity was available in camps for 786 more workers. This space will be taken up by previously scheduled movement of selected groups. No more workers will be needed in North Carolina. The situation by areas in North Carolina is as follows: Columbia - 360 in camp; 600 in grower housing.

July 10 will be closing date for potato harvest. Weeksville - 72 in camp; 300 in grower housing. Room for additional 155 in camp. Potato digging starts June 12 and should end July 15. Belcross - 169 in camp, expect 400 more June 10; 400 in private housing. Camp has 800 capacity and will be filled from groups previously selected. Potato digging starts on June 11 and closes July 10. Grandy - 500 in camp; 625 in private quarters. Ample supply of workers to take care of beans and potatoes. Will finish potatoes about July 1. Bayboro - 480 in camp; 550 in growers' quarters; space in camp for additional 150. Market slow and potato digging held up. Morehead City - 230 in camp; 350 in growers' housing. Potatoes moving and digging proceeding on schedule. Aurora - estimated 1,300 workers in this area.

Note that some 5,000 workers may be ready to leave North Carolina between July 1 and July 15. Merle Stout will be located at Elizabeth City, North Carolina previous to July 1 to receive placement requests from States north of North Carolina.

NEW YORK, according to S. M. Vaughan, Assistant State Farm Labor Supervisor, had about 300 migrants in the State as of June 1. Additional workers will be needed by the middle of June in Erie, Genesee and Columbia counties. Requests have been filed for 430 workers for these areas. As of June 5, A. L. Shepherd, County Agent, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, has filed a request for 300 migrants. There are jobs in fruit and vegetables which will apparently last all summer. The season has been delayed by unfavorable weather, but it is anticipated that the need for migrant workers will be as great or greater than last year. The fruit outlook is good, especially for apples.

NEW JERSEY does not need additional workers at this time. Asparagus is a glut on the market and cutting may stop the middle of June. Strawberry crop is light. There will be no workers needed for early apples. The first need for more workers will come about the first week in July. Sweet corn harvest should begin about July 7 and potato harvest July 14. The Hightstown Farm Labor Office will be opened on July 1. The greatest need in New Jersey has been, and will be, for small crews or family sized groups. Very few large crews can be used. This year many small groups have been reported moving through information stations at Gross, Fla., and Little Creek, Va. Many of these small groups are now working in Virginia and Maryland. Any of these small groups not needed for summer work where presently located can be directed to work in New Jersey by contacting C. L. Murphy, Farm Labor Assistant, Freehold, N. J., telephone Freehold 80663 or Charles Leonard, Farm Labor Placement Assistant, Woodbury, N. J., telephone Woodbury 800.

Very truly yours,



A. D. Gobb
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